



BRING YOUR OWN BAG KEEP THE EARTH ALIVE

Effective January 1, 2018, Suffolk County local law will require stores to charge customers a minimum fee of 5 cents for carryout bags that are provided at retail stores.

The purpose of the law is to encourage consumers to use their own reusable bags for shopping and to reduce the environmental impacts associated with single-use bags.



Stores that are covered under this law

- Drug stores
- Grocery stores
- Home centers
- Stationery stores
- Supermarkets
- Office Supply stores
- Convenience stores
- Apparel Stores

Stores that are not covered under this law

Food service establishments that are not located in grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores or food marts.

Bags that require a minimum of 5 cents

All bags provided to customers at the point of sale used to carry goods from the store to home.

Bags that do not require a fee

A bag without handles used to carry produce, meats, poultry, fish, dairy, dry goods, and any other non-pre-packaged food items to the point of sale, a bag to carry pharmacy prescriptions, or a garment bag.

Important Facts

Americans consume more than ten billion paper bags each year.
When plastic bags break down they contaminate soil and waterways.



For more information visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/healthservices



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Tips for cleaning reusable bags

Canvas Bags

These are, by far, the easiest to clean. Just toss them in the washing machine and launder in hot water with detergent, then run them through the dryer.

Recycled Shopping Bags

You should wash anything made from recycled plastic containers (a.k.a. polypropylene bags) by hand in warm soapy water and line dry it. Don't forget about the inner and outer seams, where food and liquid can hide and collect.

Insulated Shopping Bags

Since you're probably transporting raw meat in these bags, wipe them with a disinfecting wipe after each use.

Nylon Bags

Flip them inside out and wash them by hand in warm soapy water. If you prefer to machine wash them, use the gentlest cycle to prevent the bag from coming apart. Then, allow them to air dry.

Use different bags for different items

Designate certain bags for different items such as raw meat, seafood, and cleaning supplies. Label bags to avoid confusion.

Storing bags

Prevent musty odors from developing by making sure bags are completely dry before storing them and using them.

Store reusable bags in the car and at work. Be prepared by keeping reusable bags handy.

Hang your bags on your doorknob, and be sure to remember your reusable bag on the way out of the house.

Get reusable bags with a clip. You can clip your reusable bags to key chains, belt loops, purse straps, dog leashes, shopping cart, and stroller handles --anything to make sure they're there when you need them.



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